



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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March 11, 2005

TO: EMS Community

FROM: Eddy Bresnitz, MD, MS
Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

SUBJECT: N95 Respirators

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) would like to remind the EMS Community to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for patients with potentially infectious illnesses. N95 respirators should be worn when responding to patients with unknown, potentially infectious respiratory or influenza-like illnesses. N95 respirators should also be used when caring for patients with diagnosed infectious illnesses communicable by airborne transmission, such as tuberculosis. Properly fitted N95 respirators should protect the worker against bioterrorism (BT) and non-BT related respiratory pathogens.

To be in compliance with the Respiratory Protection Standard, individuals issued a respirator must be included in a Respiratory Protection Program. A complete Respiratory Protection Program includes medical screening, training, and fit testing; these elements are vital to ensure the safe and effective use of respirators by employees. Please refer to the PEOSH site at www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/peoshweb for the Respiratory Protection Model Program and Facts about Respiratory Protection for Public Employees. A valuable site for information on respiratory protection is <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory/index.html>.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' PEOSH Program Consultation Project offers free occupational safety and health consultations to public employers in New Jersey. The Consultation Project provides occupational safety and health consultations to assess safety and health management systems, to identify hazards, and to help employers prevent accidents, injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. The PEOSH Education/Training Project can help provide free on-site respiratory protection training and the staff can develop a "train the trainer" respiratory fit testing program to meet your needs. Please call the NJDHSS PEOSH Program at 609-984-1863 to obtain a consultation request form or education/training form. These are also available on the PEOSH web site, www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/peoshweb.

